

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PM-03 DODE-00 DPW-01 IO-03 EUR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3603

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11267

LIMDIS

E. O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POL SITREP MR I, JUNE 22, 1973

FOL SENT ACTION SAIGON FM DANANG AND RPTD FOR YOUR INFO QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 759

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJ: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, X PLUS 145,
JUNE 22, 1973

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

REPORTED CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS DROPPED AGAIN TO 4, MADE UP OF
2 ABFS (57 MORTAR ROUNDS) AND 2 HARASSMENTS. EIGHT ENGAGEMENTS
WERE SHOWN. IN QUANG TIN PROVINCE 116 TH REGIONAL FORCE CO.
RECEIVED 1 ABF OF 50 ROUNDS SOUTHWEST OF TUAN DUOG (BT 170259)
RESULTING IN 1 FRIENDLY KIA, 4 WIA. QUANG NAM SHOWED 5 ENGAGE-
MENTS, 4 MINING INCIDENTS AND 1 SEARCH RESULTING IN 5 FRIENDLY
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KIA (CIV) AND 7 WIA; ENEMY 6 KIA, 3 ARRESTED. QUANG NGAI HAD 2 ENGAGEMENTS, 4 MININGS AND 1 SEARCH RESULTING IN FRIENDLY 1 KIA, 13 WIA; ENEMY 13 KIA, 1 RETURNEE. REGION- WIDE CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY 3 KIA, 25 WIA; ENEMY 21 KIA, 3 CAPTURED, 1 RETURNEE. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 167 ROUNDS ALL SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, INCLUDING 122 ROUNDS FIRED BY QUANG TIN SECTOR.

2. ICCS ACTIVITIES:

A. ON THE FIRST ICCS RECONNAISSANCE VISIT TO LAO BAO PORT OF ENTRY (POE) SITE SINCE MARCH 17, THE CHIP REPRESENTATIVES TRAVELED OVERLAND AND MET WITH PRG CONFEREES ON JUNE 20 FOR OVER TWO HOURS. NO WORD IS EXPECTED ON THE RESULTS UNTIL THE TEAM RETURNS TO HUE, ACCORDING TO POLOFF HUE.

B. ALTHOUGH EACH DELEGATION IN ICCS REGION I HAS A LAO BAO TEAM, THE SENIOR POLDEL AND HUNGDEL OFFICERS ACCOMPANIED THE RECONNAISSANCE AND ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENTION TO RETURN BY WAY OF THE GIO LINH POE SITE INSTEAD OF DIRECTLY TO QUANG TRI CITY AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED. CANDEL SENIOR OFFICER COL. MACLEOD TOLD POLOFF HUE HE SUSPECTS THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS WANT TO MAKE AN ICCS COURTESY CALL ON THE AMBASSADORS TO " SOUTHWEST VIETNAM" SUPPOSEDLY RESIDENT IN DONG HA AND ACCREDITED TO THE PRG. MACLEOD FELT CERTAIN THE CANDEL AND INDODEL RECONNAISSANCE TEAM REPRESENTATIVES WOULD NOT BE INVEIGLED INTO ANY SITUATION WHICH MIGHT IMPLY ICCS RECOGNITION OF A PRG CAPITAL AT DONG HA.

C. DURING THE REGULAR WEEKLY BRIEFING OF THE INDODELS, MAJOR (NEWLY PROMOTED) EDDY SUBIANTORO TOLD THE ACTING PRINCIPAL OFFICER THAT THE INDONESIAN REDEPLOYMENT PLAN CALLS FOR 50 PERCENT OF INDONESIANS DEPARTING PRIOR TO JULY 30 AND 50 PERCENT PRIOR TO AUGUST 30, WITH DELEGATION CHIEFS AND SENIOR STAFF OFFICERS AMONG THE LATTER GROUP.

3. COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES:

I CORPS FORWARD G-2 OFFICER INFORMED POLOFF HUE THAT DONG HA TOWN IN THE PRG AREA OF QUANG TRI PROVINCE HAS BEEN ELECTRIFIED BY MEANS OF A GENERATOR SUPPLYING ENOUGH POWER TO ILLUM-
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INATE 2000 LIGHT BULBS. THE G-2 ALSO REPORTED A FUNCTIONING CITY ADMINISTRATION AND A BATTERY OF SAM-3 MISSILES AROUND DONG HA.

4. ATTITUDES TOWARD THE CEASEFIRE:

A. CONGEN POLOFF WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM TRIP TO QUANG

NAM REPORTS TWO DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF LOCAL SOUTH VIETNAMESE CONCERN OVER DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN COMMANDERS CALLED FOR IN THE CF II JOINT COMMUNIQUE. ACCORDING TO LTC NGUYEN HONG SONG, QUANG NAM CHIEF OF STAFF, CONTACTS AT LOW LEVELS SUCH AS COMPANY AND BATTALION OFFER MORE EXPOSURE AND MORE PUBLIC RECOGNITION TO THE THE VIET CONG, WHO ONCE INVITED IN TO TALK AT VARIOUS LOCALITIES WOULD BE HARD TO GET OUT. THE VENERABLE NHU HUE, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE AN QUANG BUDDHIST CHURCH IN QUANG NAM, CLAIMS THAT THE " OFFICERS" REPRESENTING THE PRG, IF MILITARY AT ALL, WILL BE WELL SCHOOLED IN POLITICAL STRUGGLE AND MORE ADEPT AT POLITICAL NEGOTIATION THAN THEIR ARVN COUNTERPARTS. THE LOWER THE OFFICER RANK, THE MORE MARKED WILL BE THE DISPARITY IN POLITICAL COMPETENCE, ACCORDING TO HUE.

B. HUE ALSO TOLD POLOFF THAT THE WAS DISTURBED AT " VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASEFIRE" BEING COMMITTED BY THE GVN.(HE ASSERTED THAT IN SEVERAL AREAS VIRTUALLY ABANDONED TO THE FIGHTING

FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, THE RVN HAD CONDUCTED MILITARY OPERATIONS SINCE JANUARY. THE VENERABLE STATED THAT THESE " VIOLATIONS, TOGETHER WITH THE " HARD LINE" TAKEN BY PRESIDENT THIEU ON ARMED FORCES DAY, INDICATED THE GVN DID NOT REALLY WANT PEACE NOW. THOMSEN UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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